



At the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) biennial Conference of the Parties (CoP5), which begins today at the COEX Center, delegates from more than 170 governments will decide the fate of more than 30 million tobacco farmers and their dependents when they vote on recommendations to artificially reduce, and eventually eliminate, tobacco growing.

The vast majority of these delegates know very little or nothing about agriculture and even less about tobacco farming. Yet, they are deciding on measures that would lead Governments to force tobacco farmers out of tobacco without proposing any alternatives.

On the table are absurd and discriminatory measures such as: dismantling the bodies that relates growers with governments, regulating the seasons tobacco can be grown and limiting or reducing the land on which it can be grown.

Not one smoker will quit smoking because of these proposals and supply will not go down as some of the biggest tobacco growing countries have not ratified the FCTC. They would simply punish and ruin millions of farmers whose governments have ratified it.

ITGA is one of the world's biggest farmers association and its members are national tobacco farmers' organizations from 23 countries in four continents.

Nobody has more experience on the possibilities and the difficulties to find alternative to tobacco than tobacco farmers and their associations, as many have tried diversification programs.

ITGA and its members have repeatedly offered to cooperate with the FCTC and share their vast knowledge and experience on the matter. Yet, the FCTC continues to ignore the farmers concerns, acting like a blind man driving a bulldozer.

Tobacco farmers completely agree with the principle 2 of the document to be discussed at the CoP5: *"tobacco growers and workers should be involved in policy development and implementation"*. They also agree with the document, acknowledging that any measures proposing to limit or replacing tobacco production, must be based on research, requiring several years, field trials and involving tobacco farmers.

ITGA is the only organization really representing the vast majority of tobacco growers all over the world and its members want and will have to be involve in that research.

Until then, they can only oppose ill-conceived measures that would ruin their families without any positive impact, whatsoever, on health.

More information about COP5 and Articles 17&18 is available at <http://protectfarmers.tobaccolleaf.org/the-issue.aspx>

\*Please contact Sung Yoon Park for any further questions at 010-2999-1154, [itgakorea@gmail.com](mailto:itgakorea@gmail.com)